

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Action dated as mailed on 21 November 2006. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the foregoing amendments and the following
5 remarks is respectfully requested.

This response is timely filed as it is filed within the three (3) month shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office Action.

There is no additional claim fee due for this Amendment because the number of claims does not exceed the number of independent and dependent claims,
10 respectively, for which fees have previously been paid.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants intend and believe that this document is fully and properly responsive to the outstanding Office Action. However, if the Examiner detects any issue
15 which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed or resolved in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Amendment to the Claims

By the above,

- 20 1. Claims 1-29 and 31-39 have been canceled without prejudice; and
2. Claims 62-75 have been added to more fully and completely claim the disclosed subject matter.

Newly added claims 62-75 generally parallel originally filed claims 43, 45-49 and 51-58 but are dependent on allowed claim 40. No new matter has
25 been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claims 40-49, 51-58, 60 and 61-75 remain in the application.

As a preliminary matter, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Anderson for the allowance of claims 40-49, 51-58, 60 and 61.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 1, 2, 6, 14, 16-19, 21, 24-28, 31-35, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,156,020 to Roe et al. (hereinafter "Roe '020").

5 These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 1, 2, 6, 14, 16-19, 21, 24-28, 31-35, 37 and 39.

2. Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,649,915 to Chauvette et al. (hereinafter "Chauvette").

10 These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 1-3 and 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

3. Claims 3, 4, 7-9, 11 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being
15 unpatentable over Roe '020 in view of U.S. Patent 5,643,588 to Roe et al. (hereinafter "Roe '588").

 These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 3, 4, 7-9, 11 and 36.

20 4. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roe.

 This rejection is rendered moot by the above cancellation of claim 10.

5. Claims 12, 13 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable
25 over Roe '020 in view of U.S. Patent 5,597,873 to Chambers et al. (hereinafter "Chambers").

 These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 12, 13 and 29.

6. Claims 15 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roe '020 in view of U.S. Patent 5,009,650 to Bernardin (hereinafter "Bernardin").

These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 15 and 23.

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7. Claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roe '020 in view of U.S. Patent 5,762,641 to Bewick-Sonntag et al. (hereinafter "Bewick-Sonntag").

10 These rejections are rendered moot by the above cancellation of claims 20 and 22.

8. Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roe.

This rejection is rendered moot by the above cancellation of claim 38.

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Newly Added Claims


Claims 62-75 have been added. As these added claims are dependent on allowed claim 40, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is solicited.

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Conclusion

It is believed that the above Amendment places all pending claims in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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